(b) The recommendations made by the Committee/Commission have been generally accepted.

(c) The management of the high-rise buildings which have been found to be deficient in fire safety/protection measures, have been given a directive to make provisions like 6 mtr. approach, water storage, automatic sprinkler system, fire alarm, public address system, exit signs, emergency power supply, fire fighting equipment etc. Under the Delhi Fire Prevention and Fire Safety Act, 1986, recently enacted, penalty of imprisonment and fire can be imposed if the directions of the Chief Fire Officer are not carried out.

Chinese objection in granting Statehood to Arunachal Pradesh

685. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China has raised certain objections over the conferment of Statehood to Arunachal Pradesh warning of serious consequences and that turning back from its 1981 package proposal of recognition of McMohan line has now asked for territorial concessions to settle the border dispute;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) China has objected to the conferment of Statehood on Arunachal Pradesh. In a statement issued on the 11th December, 1986, a spokesman of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs warned that "the consequences arising therefrom will be serious". During Official-Level Talks held in November, 1985, and again in July, 1986, the Chinese side reiterated their unjustified claim to 90,000 sq. kms. of Indian territory in the Eastern Sector and also stated that the only way to solve the boundary question was through mutual understanding and mutual accommodation.

(c) Government have rejected the Chinese objections to the grant of Statehood to Arunchal Pradesh and regret this interference in the internal affairs of India, since Arunachal Pradesh is an integral part of the Indian Union. Government intend to continue discussions with China on the boundary question in order to reach a just and satisfactory settlement covering all sectors of the boundary.

Extension of term of Municipal Corporation of Delhi

686. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for extending the four year term of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi by one year; and

(b) by when the elections to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi are likely to be held now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) and (b) The term has been extended as it was considered that the elections to the Metropolitan Council Delhi which are due in early February, 1988, and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi are held simultaneously in the interest of economy, and to avoid, in the present context, strain on the Administration.

Supply of anti-aircraft missiles to Mujahideens in Afghanistan by America

687. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that United States have recently decided to supply Stinger anti-aircraft missiles

to the Mujahideens in Afghanistan; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Government's attention has been drawn to media reports to this effect.

(b) Government is opposed to all forms of interference and intervention in Afghanistan. We favour a negotiated political settlement of the issue which takes into account the legitimate interests of all concerned. We support the UN Secretary General's initiative in this regard.

Clearance of sub-standard goods for export

688. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL:
SHRI J. P. GOYAL:
SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of complaints received so far during the last three years, year-wise against the officers of the Export Inspection Council and the Export Inspection Agency for clearing sub-standard goods for export;

(b) what is the nature of complaints and the particulars of officers against whom complaints were received;

(c) what action has so far been taken on these complaints;

(d) what are the details of the firms whose goods were found to be sub-standard; and

(e) whether Government propose to hold an inquiry into the whole affair?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (e) No complaints have been received from foreign buyers directly against officers of EIC or EIAs as such. Whenever complaints are received from importers against exporters relating to quality, these are enquired into. Appropriate action is taken against officers/employees and against exporters for lapses, if any. During the last three years, action was initiated against 20 officers/employees and 27 exporters/manufacturers.

Revolving venture fund

689. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any suggestion has been received by Government for the establishment of a revolving venture fund to assist and promote export-oriented industries; and

(b) if so, what decision has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Trade deficit with EEC

690. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's trade deficit with the European Economic Community is 40 per cent of India's total trade deficit;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken to increase India's exports to the EEC countries and reduce the trade deficit; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what are the details thereof?